

News Release

July 1, 2012 9:00 a.m. (MST)

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www.INCIWEB.org

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*Intermittently staffed: 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. (24 hour recorded message)



Arapaho Acreage Doubles in Severely Dry Conditions

The Arapaho Fire continued burning hot late into the hours on Saturday. Infrared flight data shows the fire has burned 75,051 acres and is continuing to burn hot and fast. Crews today will again focus efforts on protecting structures and coordinating evacuation efforts as needed. Establishing anchor pointsⁱ and beginning line construction at the heel of the fire is another task that firefighters will work on today.

A Red Flag Warning has been issued today with a Haines Index of 6ⁱⁱ. Today will be hot, and with gusty winds. Another weak cold front will be lifting to the northeast from the Pacific Northwest into Montana. The associated warm front will lift northward bringing early south/southeast winds into the east side of Laramie Range. There is a chance of thunderstorms late this afternoon; however the best chance of moisture is expected on Monday.

Fire behavior today is expected to be active. Spot fires up to one third of a mile are anticipated. Crown runs are likely today with a spread of up to one half to one mile. Dry fuels combined with unstable atmosphere means that the fire will likely be plume dominated.

A Type 1 Incident Management Team will be assuming management of the Arapaho Fire today at 8:00 p.m. this evening. A Public Information Officer is in place at the Cow Camp staging area, west of Wheatland, to answer questions about the incident for local residents.

For more information on the fire and updated maps please visit www.INCIWEB.org.

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Fire stats at a glance:

Start Date: June 27th, 2012

Cause: Under investigation

Acreage: 75,051

Personnel: 377

Crews: 8

Containment: 0%

Cooperating Agencies: Albany County, Converse County, Platte County, USFS, State of Wyoming

Aviation :(2) Type 1 & (2) Type 3 Helicopters

Engines: 20

Injuries: 0

Structures destroyed: Undetermined until an assessment can be done.

Structures/outbuildings threatened: 150 currently threatened. This may change based on fire movement.

ⁱ Anchor Point: An advantageous location, usually a barrier to fire spread, from which to start constructing fireline. The anchor point is used to minimize the chance being flanked by a fire while fireline is being constructed. NWCG Glossary of Wildland Fire Terminology: <http://tinyurl.com/WildlandFireTerms>

ⁱⁱ Haines Index: An atmospheric index used to indicate the potential for wildfire growth by measuring the stability and dryness of the air over a fire. NWCG Glossary of Wildland Fire Terminology: <http://tinyurl.com/WildlandFireTerms>